Two Letters,

One from the

STATES-GENERAL

TO HIS

Most Christian Majesty,

The other from His

Most Christian Majesty

TO THE

STATES-GENERAL.

Relating to the present Conjuncture of Affairs.

With Allowance. April 6. 1672.

LONDON:

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A Letter from the States-General of the United Provinces, to His Most Christian Majesty.

Great Sir,

HAving reflected on the Extraordinary Kindnesses, which the Kings, your Majesties Predecessors, have at all times expresst for these States, we can hardly credit the Reports which are spread abroad, That they are become the Objects of those Powerful Preparations of War, now made by you in your Kingdom: And yet the Intelligence we receive from all parts, and the discourses, which, as we are informed, your Ministers have delivered in the Courts of those Kings and Princes where they are Resident, insinuating, that they are made only against us: We have been desirous with the greatest scrutiny in the World to examine, Whether in our Actions and Conduct, there may have been any thing which might induce your Majesty to turn that Friendship, wherewith you have hitherto honoured us, into aversion. And having not found any thing therein, whereof we might be conscious to our selves, nor any thing intimated to us by your Majesty, we could not be perswaded, that the Justice which regulates the Actions of your Government, could permit you to imploy your Arms against your most Ancient and most Faithful Allies, without any previous communication of the disgusts, whereof you might desire the Redress. And indeed, so far was it from our intention, to give your Majesty occasion of any, or being any way whatsoever deficient in the observance of the Treaty at *Paris*, in the year 1662. that we think we have most punctually and most religiously observed it: Nay, we shall make it our business immediately to redress the disobservances and contraventions, which might any ways happen through Inadvertency. True it is, may it please your Majesty, that for some time since, there has been some disagreement about *Navigation* and *Commerce*; but it has been extremely to our regret, who have done all that could be lawfully desired of us, to prevent and take off the difficulties which have occasioned any trouble or inconvenience in both those concerns; As we shall yet be ready to do, not only in that respect, but also in whatever may assure your Majesty of the perfect Inclination we have, to render you the Honour and Compliance which is as much due to your Person, as to the Eminency of your Dignity, to give you all the satisfaction, which you may in reason pretend to, from your best and most affectionate Allies, to re-establish *Commerce* and *Navigation* in the same posture it was in at the time of the last Treaty, and to promote your interests with the greatest affection we could,

ſo as not to prejudice the obligation we have to our other Allies. Moreover, Sir, we do not conceive our ſelves oblig'd to juſtifie the Military preparations we make by Sea and Land, conſidering the Intelligence we daily receive; but would gladly have your Majeſty aſſured, that we do it not with a deſign to injure any, but by an inevitable neceſſity, and the Indiſpenſable obligation which lies upon us, to protect our State and Subjects. And that we ſhould be glad to lay down our Arms, as ſoon as it ſhall pleaſe you to deliver us out of the diſquiet, into which we are put by the preparations which ſeem to approach us on all ſides; and to aſſure us, that we have no cauſe to fear yours. We order the Sieur *de Groot* our Ambaſſador, for that purpoſe to deſire a particular Audience of your Majeſty, and to entertain you more at large on this Subject, and to add hereto whatever may contribute to your aſſurance of the ſincerity of our Intentions. We ſhall not therefore enlarge this Letter any further, ſave only to pray God, *&c.*

From the Hague, *December the* 10th 1672.

THE ANSWER OF HIS Most Christian Majesty To the Precedent LETTER FROM THE STATES-GENERAL.

Most Dear, Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates,

WE have given Audience to the Sieur *de Groot*, your Extraordinary Ambassador now with us, upon what he hath represented to us upon your behalf; and have received from him the Letter of the 10th. of *December* last, which you had ordered him to deliver us. We are very much pleased to find therein the acknowledgment you make, of having received, upon several occasions, some expressions of the kindnesses of the Kings our Predecessors: But we could have wished, that you had not forgotten what hath passed since our coming to the Crown. The remembrance you should have retained of that, would have given you occasion, without any

ſcruple, to have judged leſs favourably then you do, of your demeanour towards us. You would have remembred, that you have not obſerved the Fidelity due to our ancient Alliance; and that we have not been wanting to give you very advantageous Aſſiſtances when you ſtood in need of them, for the maintenance and ſupport of your State. Nay poſſibly the Innovations you have made in the buſineſs of Commerce, ſince the Year 1662. would have appeared to you much leſs innocent then you repreſent them; as to which we are willing to refer Our ſelf, to the ſentiment of thoſe, who are therein leſs concerned then We are. If it be true, as you acknowledge, That Juſtice is the Rule of our Actions, and that you are fully ſatisfied with the examination you have made of your own, you have no occaſion to be diſquieted at our Military Preparations. 'Tis true, at our return from the laſt Expedition we made into *Flanders*, that the Infantry guarding our places in thoſe Parts, might be imployed about the Fortifications there, we augmented our Forces, to ſecure our Subjects from the Oppreſſion wherewith they were threatned, as well by the extraordinary Levies of Foot and Horſe which you had raiſed, and the Fleet you had at Sea before our Coaſts; as by the earneſt ſolicitations which your Miniſters made in the Courts of moſt Princes, to induce them into Engagements againſt our Crown. In which procedure, we have complyed with the Laws of Prudence, and the protection we owe our People. Nay, we ſhall tell you, that we ſhall augment our Preparations both by Sea and Land; and when they ſhall be in the poſture we have deſigned them, we ſhall make ſuch uſe of them, as we ſhall conceive ſuitable to our Dignity, whereof we are not obliged to give any man an accompt; promiſing our ſelf, that God will bleſs with ſucceſs, the juſt Reſolutions we ſhall take, and that they will be approved by all the Potentates who ſhall not

ſuffer

ſuffer themſelves to be prepoſſeſſed by the ſiniſter Impreſſions, which ſome have made it their buſineſs a long time to infuſe into them againſt us.

This is the anſwer we thought fit to make to your Letter, though it was not ſo much written particularly to us, as to excite againſt our Intereſts, thoſe Princes, in whoſe Courts it had been divulged, before we could receive it.

Recommending you therefore, Moſt Dear, Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates, to Gods protection, *&c.*

From St. Germain en Laye,

Jan. 6. 1672.

FINIS.